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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/512,276	02/24/2000	Takaaki Nagao	PM266298	5207

909 7590 11/19/2002

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EXAMINER

TRAN, LOUIS B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3721

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

S-M.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/512,276

Applicant(s)

NAGAO ET AL.

Examiner

Louis B Tran

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-16 and 34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7 and 9-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6, 8 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 February 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment, Paper No. 15, received on 09/24/2002.

Applicant's cancellation of claims 1 and 17-33 in Paper No. 15 is acknowledged.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirasawa (2000143269) in view of Simon (4,560,069).

Hirasawa discloses the invention substantially as claimed including a method of packing a glass base material, which is a base material of an optical fiber, comprising putting said glass base material having a cylindrical shape over its whole length into a plastic bag as described in lines 1-9, on the "Means" description page (translated and submitted with this office action) but does not expressly show packing glass base material into a cylindrical container, which container is rigid enough to withstand a load from said glass base material.

However, Simon teaches the method of packing glass base material into a cylindrical container, which container is rigid enough to withstand a load from said glass base material as described in column 4, line 5 and shown in Figure 1 to be a metal can

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for the purpose of protection from mechanical shock as in column 1, line 10. With respect to claim 34, said cylindrical container is mad of at least one material selected from the group consisting of cardboard, plastic, cardboard-plastic, wood and metal.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide Hirasawa with a cylindrical container in order to protect the material from outside shock.

4. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirasawa (2000143269) in view of Simon (4,560,069) in further view of Harmony (4,268,567).

The modified method of Hirasawa discloses the invention substantially as claimed including packaging said glass base material with said air packing material into a cylindrical container, which container is rigid enough to withstand a load from said glass base material but does not expressly teach rolling up said glass bas material having a cylindrical shape over its whole length with air packing material that contains air inside. Hirasawa does utilize cushion material –that can be a list of materials- to protect items from damage as discussed in the “Means” section of Hirasawa.

However, Harmony teaches the method of rolling up a cylindrical object having a cylindrical shape over its whole length with air packing material 12 that contains air inside for the purpose of having a packaging material that is economically stored while not in use - flat packaging material versus preformed material as described in column 1, line 39.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide Hirasawa with a rolled air-packaging layer instead of a preformed layer in order to economically utilize material that does not require a larger volume to store.

With respect to claim 4, the modified method of Hirasawa is disclosed as above but does not teach packing with three layer of air packing material but does teach one layer.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to wrap the product three times instead of one, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a method involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. V. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

Moreover, it is well known and practiced to wrap cylindrical items with air packaging material since this method is widely practiced in ordinary gift wrapping and shipping practices.

With respect to claim 5, the modified method steps also discloses the method steps of packing a glass base material in a cylindrical container that has a larger diameter than the glass contained as seen in Figure 1 of Simon.

Although Simon does not show the diameter being explicitly 10 mm larger than the container, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make a clearance of 10 mm since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirasawa (2000143269) in view of Simon (4,560,069) in further view of Harmony (4,268,567) and Schuster ((4,681,225).

The modified method of Hirasawa discloses the invention substantially as claimed including the above description but does not show capping both ends of said cylindrical container, which packs said glass base material, by caps.

However, Schuster teaches the use of caps 16,18 for the purpose of access to the contents as in column 2, line 7.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art in order to provide two end caps for ease of access.

6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirasawa (2000143269) in view of Simon (4,560,069) and Harmony (4,268,567) and Schuster ((4,681,225) and in further view of Dhority et al.(5,236,088).

The modified method of Hirasawa discloses the invention substantially as claimed as described above but does not show a method of packing that provides an inside cap which has a shape that can fit with a shape of an end of a glass material on a space between glass and cap.

However, Dhority et al. teaches an inside cap 11 having a shape that can fit with a shape of said glass material in a space between glass and cap for the purpose of cushioning and supporting the contents of the container as in column 4, line 8.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to provide the modified steps with a shape that can fit with a shape of said glass material in a space between glass and cap in order to cushion and support fragile material.

### ***Conclusion***

7. Applicant's remarks have been fully considered but are deemed moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis B Tran whose telephone number is 703-305-0611. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-6PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I Rada can be reached on 703-308-2187. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3579 for regular communications and 703-305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

lbt  
November 13, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rinaldi I. Rada', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rinaldi I. Rada  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3700